

Blue Water Vicariate Pastoral Council Meeting

Holy Family, Memphis

September 10, 2008

Gerry St. John brought the meeting to order at 7:05.
Fr. Nick led us in a prayer.

Present: Vicar – Fr. Nick Zukowski; Holy Family – Catherine Wullaert; Holy Trinity – Mary Elizabeth Murray, Sharon Bender; Immaculate Conception – Theresa Austin, Amy O’Gara; Our Lady On The River – Roberta Ivan, Catherine Nutter; St. Augustine – Susan Thomas, Gerry St. John, St. Edward On The Lake – Sarah Rutkowski, Hank Rutkowski; St. Mary St Clair- Fred Kiline; St. Mary Port Huron – Cindy Platzer; St. Mary Queen of Creation – Larry Paczkowski (APC), Rick Wirick; Campus Minister SC₄ - Erik Coules; Christian Service – John Connors; DREs – Tina Kovalcik; Principals – Helen Casper; AOD Facilitator – Lory McGlennen and Vicariate Secretary – Debie Hauer.

The sign in sheet was passed around and Gerry asked people to make any changes in their information. Gerry then asked for approval of the minutes. There was a consensus to approve.

Introductions were made around the table.

APC

Larry Paczkowski reported that Cardinal Maida spoke about Proposition 2, Embryonic Stem Cell Research and encouraged Catholics to vote **NO!** Manresa- Jesuit Retreat House in Bloomfield had a presentation on "Praying for People and Situations of Great Darkness." The presenter passed out prayer cards to pray for the victims and perpetrators of the darkest situations in society today such as domestic violence, drug abuse and trafficking, racism, etc. He asked all to forward prayer cards to their parishes to be utilized. Michael Hovey spoke about Proposition 2, which would allow research on embryonic stem cells in MI. The use of these embryonic cells is against Catholic social teaching, but the use of adult stem cells is embraced by the Church. Please visit www.micause.org for scientific support. A lot of time was spent working on the formation of an "all Vicariate" assembly consisting of VPC'S, Regional Bishops, Vicars, and APC reps. To be held on a Sunday afternoon in March of 2009 to discuss:

1. Mutual goals and objectives.
2. Look at how our Vicariates communicate and interact.
3. How to improve communication
4. Share best practices.
5. Focus of the Together in Faith process as we proceed.

This was facilitated by the tracking committee of the TIF Program. We broke into groups, came up with ideas and submitted them to the tracking committee.

DRE

Tina Kovalcik reported that the fall Vicariate Catechist Formation was cancelled. All Parishes are asked to encourage their parishioners to attend the Leadership Conference. They received a flyer to distribute. Catechist formation dates and topics were determined. Con-validation Seminar to be scheduled in the spring. Tina handed out a flyer for the Annulment Seminar Next meeting is September 18, 2008.

Fr. Nick spoke about the success of these Annulment Seminars and encouraged each parish to take a turn having one.

PRINCIPAL

BWCSA began the year with a teacher in-service on August 21 on Professional Learning Communities presented by our superintendent, S. Mary Gehringer and four of the associate superintendents. PLC is a process by which teachers collaborate, where the focus of education is learning more than teaching, where data is analyzed and re-teaching a matter of course. The archdiocese would like our schools to be Catholic Professional Learning Communities. All of the principals are committed to this goal.

The first BWCSA principals meeting is on September 23rd and St. Mary/MCA in Port Huron. The schools will be reporting to the vicar with their school viability reports which are part of the schools support agreement. BWCS principals are attending the MANS administrators convention on Mackinac Island October 8 to 10.

Fr. Nick said there are 18 criteria to qualify for the vicariate support agreement. The oversight committee set these criteria. The schools can be working on up to three of the criteria. Any more than that and they will not qualify. ALL the Blue Water schools qualify at this time.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Deanna White was not present so Erik Coules and Tina Kovalcik told us about a family concert being offered on September 14, 2008 at Holy Trinity Parish in Port Huron. Starting with Mass at St. Joseph at 11am and finishing with Paul Kalowski in concert at St. Stevens. All families are invited.

Bobby asked Erik if he knew how many youth from our vicariate went to World Youth Day. He thought about 30.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Erik Coules reported that their next event will be "See You at the Pole" on September 24th at 12:15pm when students will gather around the flag pole on campus and pray for the college and country. They have four applicants for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Their first meeting as a group will be next Thursday. They also have two applicants for the Intervarsity Christian Club. With the new recruits

they hope increase awareness and participation in Campus Ministry. Their Bible Study will begin in October and the other events will be determined by the new members of the groups. They also hopefully will be taking a group to both D.C. and Tijuana next semester.

CARDINAL MOONEY

Craig LaDuke was unable to attend so he sent a report which was handed out and is included in the September file.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Deacon John Connors reported that the Vicariate Christian Service met on September 10, 2008 and that they continue to update the outreach map. It appears that food is available for the needy throughout the vicariate. They have also identified the AA & NA meeting sites and services to seniors. They had a discussion on the possibility of developing a money management program. One of the Christian Service Reps will be contacting a program called LOVE Inc. (Inc. stands for In the Name of Christ).

Gerry talked about coupons for seniors. WIC is handing out food coupons for seniors. The seniors go to pre determined locations and listen to a talk about nutrition and then receive the coupons. She said there were about 150 seniors that came to one location.

Deacon John said “just so you have an idea of how much food is needed the Port Huron depot received 65,000 pounds and it was gone in 2 ½ hours. The depot is open for 4 hours, from noon until 4pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. In one day they serve about 71 families.

Discussion ensued regarding the best ways to help. Someone suggested that this would be good service for our Youth Groups to do. The problem is that the depot is only open during school hours. Any one interested in volunteering should call 810-987-7886. It is an excellent way to serve as the volunteers are right there “rubbing elbows” with the people being served. Also our parishes can send clients to them but we need to send a referral with them. The location is on the corner of 10th and Beard St in Port Huron. Deacon said he will bring some next month.

SUB COMITTEES:

Lory was hoping to have the report from the Tracking Committee. She will have it next week. This will drive what we do this year.

There will be a special Stewardship Workshop on October 8th at St. Mary in St. Clair. The Vicariate Pastoral Council is asked to encourage their Parish Stewardship Commission and at least a few of their Parish Council members to attend. As the Vicariate Pastoral Council we are offering to help our parishes implement a stewardship

program to educate our parishioners. Fr. Nick explained that “a Stewardship Parish is a parish where the majority of the people make a conscious decision to give back to God with their time talent and treasure. When one chooses to become a disciple of Jesus stewardship is not optional. It is not what we do it is who we are”.

The question was asked if this is the stewardship program we discussed last year. The answer: yes.

NEW BUSINESS

The following dates and who will bring refreshments were agreed upon. With the exception of the October 8th special meeting all meeting will be at Holy Family’s Memphis Site.

October 8, 2008	at St Mary in St Clair- Stewardship Workshop
November 12, 2008	Holy Trinity brings refreshments
January 14, 2009	Our Lady on the River brings refreshments
February 11, 2009	St. Augustine brings refreshments
March 11, 2009	St. Edward on the Lake brings refreshments
May 13, 2009	St. Mary Queen of Creation brings refreshments
June 10, 2009	Immaculate Conception brings refreshments

OPEN FORUM

Lory handed out brochures promoting the Archdiocese of Detroit 6th Annual Catholic Women’s Conference being held at Macomb Community College on Twelve Mile road, Saturday, October 25, 2008 from 8:30 am until 4:00 pm.

Catherine Wullaert brought hand outs on two events Holy Family will be offering. The first is Faithful Citizenship: Voting as a Catholic. It will be offered on Wednesday, Oct 15th at 7pm at the Memphis Site. The second event is their first Divine Mercy Meeting also held at their Memphis site on Tuesday, October 14th, starting with the Rosary at 6:30 pm, Mass at 7pm followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and an inspirational talk by Catherine M. Lanni.

Fred Kilcline reminded us about the upcoming Vocation Convocation.

Lory explained the Parish Life Conference which is a half day of formation for those in Parish ministry. The Blue Water Vicariate site will be at St. Mary in St. Clair. The Blue Water VPC subsidizes the cost of this conference at this site. It is an excellent source of development for our parish leadership. The VPC is encouraged to invite people from their parish to attend.

St. Augustine is now offering a 6pm Mass on Sunday evenings, twice a month, with the youth in mind. All are welcome.

VICAR'S COMMENTS

“Called by Christ, Gifted by the Spirit:” All of the Pastors, Pastoral Associates, Office Managers and Bookkeepers, as well as any Parish Pastoral Council members, Stewardship Commission members, Finance Committee members and other interested parties of the Blue Water Vicariate are welcome to attend a Stewardship Awareness workshop based on the Archdiocesan program “Called by Christ, Gifted by the Spirit” process of stewardship awareness. The workshop will take place at St. Mary School in St. Clair on Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 6:45 PM. Later this month, St. Mary Queen of Creation will begin an abbreviated form of this process.

Health Materials from Trinity Health in Port Huron: They have arrived! Each pastor was asked to pick up a copy at the Vicariate Clergy meeting and pass the information on to their Christian Service Commission, Faith Community Nursing Network or similar outreach groups in their parish.

Catholic Cable Television: There will be an article in the next issue of the Drift explaining an inexpensive way that households can once again get the Eternal Word Television Network and Catholic Television Network of Detroit on their cable box. This is an important outreach, and may be the only Catholic formation our homebound and imprisoned Catholics and non-Catholics are able to receive.

The Council of Vicars met on Tuesday, September 9, 2008. They selected their Executive Committee and each Vicar chose what Sub-Committee they wished to be on. The Sub Committees are Parish Life and Ministry, Finance and Administration and Education. Fr. Nick is on Parish Life and Ministry.

The Parish Life and Ministry Sub-Committee is going to be looking at the “Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines and Handbook” which was last updated in 1992.

The Education Sub-Committee reported that a committee needs to be formed to insure “Catholic Schools for the Future.” There needs to be a collaborative effort to save Catholic Education in the Archdiocese. Some vicariates, parishes and pastors are not cooperating with stewardship efforts to fund Catholic schools. The Cardinal’s pastoral letter on education, Vision 2000 was cited as a reference for this coordinated effort.

The Finance and Administration Sub-Committee reported that a new operations manual is about 90% complete and should be out by the end of the month. It includes how to report budgets properly and suggests that a Finance Committee for each parish be established in accordance with Canon Law and be separate from the Stewardship Commission. Parishes are not meeting their parish CSA targets, and this is a concern.

In this new program year, the Council of Vicars would like to address three specific issues: the pastoral care of the sick, especially those in need of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick; parish policies regarding funeral services provided by the parish regarding funeral services provided by the parish; and catechesis on the new Sacramentary, whenever it will finally be approved and promulgated. (This is expected to be in 2012 or 2013.)

Other topics discussed at the Council of Vicars were

- Making sure that the Together in Faith Tracking Committee keeps the momentum going;
- The recent break-in at Most Holy Trinity Church;

- Tom Scholler from the Office of Finance and Administration of the Archdiocese of Detroit distributed a hand-out explaining the benefits of belonging to the International Catholic Stewardship Council;
- Monsignor Bob McClory explained the need for education regarding Proposal 2 on the Michigan Ballot regarding stem cell research;
- It is time for our annual audit of compliance regarding the Dallas Charter. Of the 284 parishes in the Archdiocese, 40 parishes have not responded to the survey which was mailed out months ago.
- Cardinal Maida asked us all to become informed of and to vote against Proposal 2 in November.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 8th at St. Mary in St. Clair – Stewardship Workshop

CLOSING PRAYER

Fr. Nick suggested using the “Stewardship Prayer” by S. Marie Schwan as the closing prayer for this and future meetings. All agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Respectfully submitted by Debie Hauer